

## Message Text

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70

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 FEA-01 AS-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 055698

R 171600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1311

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS MARR IC US NATO

SUBJECT: IDF ASSISTANCE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE WEIGHED IN MEDIA

1. POSSIBILITY OF ENLISTING US HELP IN PROTECTING ICELAND'S CLAIMED  
FISHING LIMITS HAS BECOME TOPIC OF SPORADIC DISCUSSION IN MEDIA.

2. ISSUE FIRST SURFACED IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT FISHERIES DISPUTE ON  
TV CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM "SPOTLIGHT" OCTOBER 31, WHEN POINT WAS  
MADE BY DEPUTY CIVIL AIR ADMINISTRATOR THAT 1974 US-GOI DEFENSE  
MOU CALLS FOR STUDY OF INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN IDF AND  
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ICELANDIC COAST GUARD, CIVIL DEFENSE, AND CIVIL AVIATION

AUTHORITIES. THIS REFERENCE ATTRACTED LITTLE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, BUT WAS FOLLOWED UP ON NOVEMBER 7 BY AFTERNOON INDEPENDENCE PARTY PAPER VISIT IN INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON. FONMIN SAID QUESTION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GOI AND IDF IN PATROLLING FISHING GROUNDS HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH USG, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE. AGUSTSSON ADDED THAT PORTION OF MOU IN QUESTION WAS SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN RESCUE EFFORTS AND COMMUNICATION.

3. LATEST AND MOST DETAILED TREATMENT OF SUBJECT APPEARED IN ARTICLE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S DAILY ALTHYDUBLADID NOVEMBER 15 BY STATE HOUSING DIRECTOR AND SDP ACTIVIST SIGURDUR GUDMUNDSSON. GUDMUNDSSON DISMISSED LIKELIHOOD OF IDF HELP IN ANY COD WAR, NOTING THAT US WOULD PROBABLY REJECT SUCH ROLE AS BEING PROVOCATIVE TO FRG AND UK, AS WELL AS INCONSISTENT WITH PRIMARY MISSION OF US-MANNED BASE AS DEFENSE INSTALLATION SERVING INTERESTS OF ALL NATO MEMBERS. GUDMUNDSSON ADDED THAT US HELP WOULD NOT BE UNIVERSALLY WELCOMED BY ICELANDERS AND WOULD, IN FACT, PROBABLY CAUSE SERIOUS DIVISION IN COUNTRY. FINALLY, HE WARNED OF DANGER TO ICELAND'S INDEPENDENCE IF COUNTRY CAME TO RELY ON FOREIGNERS TO UPHOLD ITS LAWS.

4. COMMENT. POSSIBILITY OF REQUESTING US ASSISTANCE FOR ICELAND HAS THUS PUBLICLY ENTERED INTO OVERALL FISHERIES DEBATE. HOW SERIOUS THIS WILL BE IS YET TO BE SEEN, ALTHOUGH MANY ICELANDERS ARE WARNING US THAT INTEREST IN SUBJECT WILL INTENSIFY RATHER THAN DIMINISH.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Subject:** IDF ASSISTANCE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE WEIGHED IN MEDIA  
**TAGS:** EFIS, MARR, IC, US, NATO  
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